

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

May 17, 1963

MEMORANDUM FOR

MR. BUNDY

Attached is the Cuba chronology which was mentioned at your meeting this morning with Messrs. Rostow, Chayes, McNaughton, and Yarmolinsky.

Copies have been sent to all the meeting's participants.

GC
Gordon Chase

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Chronology of Important Events in
United States-Cuban Relations

1957 - 1962

Summary

The attached chronology for the period 1957-1962 records, on the one hand, United States Government attempts to get along with the Castro regime in Cuba, and on the other, that regime's hostility toward the United States and betrayal of the Cuban revolution to international communism.

As early as 1957 the United States Government expressed its concern over political unrest in Cuba. In 1958 we suspended arms shipments to the Batista government, which, in disregard of an agreement with the United States, had used them to combat the revolutionary movement headed by Fidel Castro. When the Castro regime came to power in 1959, the United States looked upon it with sympathy, recognized it almost immediately, and welcomed its promises of political freedom and social justice for the Cuban people. We made clear our willingness to discuss Cuba's economic needs. Despite our concern at the Cuban regime's mounting hostility toward the United States and its growing communist tendencies, we attempted patiently and consistently from early 1959 until late 1960 to negotiate differences with the regime.

Elements in the Castro movement engaged in anti-American activities during the revolution against Batista. Soon after it came to power in 1959, the Castro government turned away from its previous promises, permitted communist influence to grow, attacked and persecuted its own supporters in Cuba who expressed opposition to communism, arbitrarily seized United States properties, and made a series of baseless charges against the United States. It ignored, rejected or imposed impossible conditions on repeated United States overtures to cooperate and negotiate. In 1960 Cuba established close political, economic and military relationships with the Sino-Soviet bloc, while increasing the pace and vehemence of measures and attacks against the United States. We did not take defensive measures until the last half of 1960.

The United States terminated relations with the Cuban Government in January 1961 because of Cuban demands which placed crippling limitations on our ability to carry out diplomatic and consular functions in Cuba. The adoption by the present Cuban government of a totalitarian communist system and its alignment with the international communist movement, which were already clear at that time have become more complete since then. These developments culminated in December 1961, when Castro openly espoused Marxism-Leninism.

Chronology of Important Events In
United States-Cuban Relations

1957 - 1962

- 1957
- July 25 U. S. Ambassador Earl T. Smith, upon presentation of credentials, states that the American people are saddened and concerned over the political unrest which has led to bloodshed in Cuba.
- 1958
- March 14 U. S. suspends arms deliveries to Cuba.
- June 22 Raul Castro, rebel commander in northern Oriente province, issues a military order for the detention, effective June 27, of all U. S. male citizens for the purpose of "stopping U. S. military shipments to the Batista government". Pursuant to this order, starting June 26 Cuban rebels kidnap 43 U. S. citizens, including 30 sailors and Marines, from the U. S. Naval Base at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba. The last of those kidnapped are released July 18.
- September-October Cuban rebels set up a system for levying taxes on both Cuban and U. S. enterprises operating in rebel-occupied territory in eastern Cuba, and harass several U. S. companies in an attempt to collect funds and acquire supplies and equipment.
- October 20 Cuban rebels kidnap two Americans employed by the Texas Oil Company, and release them three days later.
- 1959
- January 1 President Batista flees Cuba.
- January 2 Fidel Castro proclaims provisional government headed by Manuel Urrutia as President.
- January 5 President Urrutia appoints Jose Miró Cardona as Prime Minister.
- January 7 The U. S. recognizes the Cuban Government, noting with satisfaction the assurances given of the Cuban intention to comply with international obligations and agreements, and expresses the sincere good will of the Government and people of the U. S. towards the new Government and the people of Cuba.
- January 7 The Communist Party daily Boh appears in Habana for the first time since 1953.
- January 9 Ernesto Guevara, Commander of La Cabaña fortress in Habana, says that many members of the Communist Party lost their lives fighting Batista while the Batista government was receiving weapons from the U. S. Government, and that the Communists have earned the right to be just another party in Cuba.

January 13

- January 13 By this date, almost 200 persons have been "tried" by revolutionary tribunals, found guilty and summarily shot. By the end of 1959, the count is over 600.
- January 27 Nine U. S. companies operating in Cuba have made advance payments of \$2,560,000 on taxes which are not due until March 30.
- February 16 Fidel Castro succeeds Miró Cardona as Prime Minister.
- March 2 U. S. Ambassador Philip W. Bonsal presents credentials. He brings cordial greetings and heartfelt good wishes from President Eisenhower for the happiness, prosperity and progress of Cuba. He states to President Urrutia: "We wish you every success in your announced objective of raising the standard of living of your country. I shall devote particular attention to all opportunities of increased cooperation in the economic field which may present themselves".
- March 4 The Cuban Government intervenes the Cuban Telephone Company, the first intervention of a U. S.-owned firm.
- March 16 Cuban Ambassador Ernesto Dihigo presents credentials. President Eisenhower expresses hope and desire for ever closer relationship between Cuba and the United States.
- March 22 Prime Minister Castro charges that U. S. authorities were lax in keeping track of arms purchases and other activities in the U. S. directed against Cuba. U. S. denies charge on March 23.
- April 13 Ambassador Bonsal tells Prime Minister Castro that the U. S. considers Castro's forthcoming visit to the U. S. very important, and offers to help in any way required.
- April 16 During lunch given by Secretary of State Christian Herter for Prime Minister Castro in Washington, Assistant Secretary of State Roy R. Rubottom, Jr., in conversation with the President of the Cuban National Bank, Felipe Pazos, arranges further conversations for the following day with Cuban officials.
- April 17 Assistant Secretary Rubottom gives Minister of Economy Regino Boti, Minister of Treasury Rufo Lopez Fresquet, and Pazos friendly welcome and invites them to indicate Cuba's needs. He says the U. S. Government desires to be helpful. The Cubans rebuff offer.
- Later the same day Prime Minister Castro, in a speech to the American Society of Newspaper Editors, says he has not come to the U. S. to ask for money.

May 17

- May 17 Cuban Government approves agrarian reform law, providing for taking of agricultural properties, payment to be in 20-year bonds, at 4-1/2% interest.
- May 27 Assistant Secretary Rubottom tells Ambassador Dihigo that the U. S. understands that the Cuban revolution is deep and meaningful for the Cuban people, that its eventual course is a matter for their decision, and that we understand the desire and need for land reform.
- June 1 Ambassador Bonsal, in informal conversation with Minister of State Roberto Agramonte, states that the U. S. supports sound land reform, and recognizes Cuba's right to expropriate private property, provided just and prompt compensation is made. He states that it is in the interest of both Cuba and the U. S. to work together, to get along amicably, and to afford each other a full hearing before taking actions materially affecting the other.
- June 11 Commenting on Cuban agrarian reform law, U. S. expresses sympathy for the objectives of agrarian reform; recognizes the right of a state to take property for public purposes, coupled with an obligation to pay prompt, adequate and effective compensation; expresses concern as to the adequacy of the law's provisions for compensation to U. S. citizens whose property may be expropriated; and expresses hope for further exchanges of views.
- June 12 Ambassador Bonsal urges on Prime Minister Castro the importance of close relations between Cuba and the U. S. because of the inter-related economies and the proximity of the two countries.
- June 20 In Washington, Assistant Secretary Rubottom offers Cuban Minister of State Raul Roa full cooperation in returning problems of U.S.-Cuban relations to normal, non-public diplomatic channels, as advocated by Roa.
- June 22 In Washington, Under Secretary of State C. Douglas Dillon tells Minister of State Roa of the sincere desire of the U. S. that Cuba grow and prosper, and expresses the hope that the mutually beneficial traditional relationship between the U. S. and Cuba continue.
- June 25 Cuban Government seizes three U. S.-owned cattle ranches in Camaguey province, first such seizures subsequent to the agrarian reform law.
- June 27 Cuban Government seizes U. S.-owned cattle ranch in Oriente province.

July 1

- July 1 Major Pedro Luis Diaz Lanz resigns as head of the Cuban Air Force, charging Communist infiltration of the armed forces and government.
- July 12 Prime Minister Castro describes reported appearance of Major Diaz Lanz before the Senate Internal Security Subcommittee in executive session as an unfriendly act and as U. S. interference in the internal affairs of Cuba.
- July 13 President Urrutia, appearing on television, states that communism is not really concerned with the welfare of the people, and that it constitutes a danger for the Cuban revolution.
- July 14 Major Diaz Lanz testifies publicly before the Senate Internal Security Subcommittee on communism in Cuba.
- July 14 Acting Minister of State Armando Hart denounces Diaz Lanz appearance before Senate Internal Security Subcommittee as blatant intervention in Cuban internal affairs.
- July 17 In television appearance, Fidel Castro resigns as Prime Minister and accuses President Urrutia of treason because of July 13 speech. Urrutia resigns.
- July 23 Ambassador Bonsal expresses to Minister of State Roa the general sympathy of the U. S. for the objectives of the Cuban revolution and our support for agrarian reform programs of a sound nature. States that in connection with the Diaz Lanz case, U. S. policy has been correct and faithful to our highest principles. Expresses concern over the deterioration in Cuba-U. S. relations as a result of anti-American statements of principal Cuban Government leaders. Expresses wish of U. S. Government to cooperate in any way in obtaining information on various incidents.
- July 26 Fidel Castro announces that he will resume position of Prime Minister.
- July 31 On at least 6 occasions during the month, Cuban Government officials seize or place cattle on land owned by U. S. citizens.
- August 15 Prime Minister Castro charges complicity of U. S. officials in permitting planes participating in counter-revolutionary activities against Cuba to take off from the U. S.
- August 21 Assistant Secretary Rubottom emphasizes to Ambassador Dihigo that he believes that the U. S. and Cuba urgently need to sit down together and talk over various problems to arrive at an understanding.

August 31

- August 31 On at least 3 occasions during the month, Cuban Government officials seize or harvest land owned by U. S. citizens.
- September 2 Deputy Assistant Secretary of State William P. Snow, in conversation with Ambassador Dihigo, expresses regret at the continuing attacks on the U. S. by Cuban Government officials, concern at the failure of the Cuban Government to hear the views of U. S. business interests before the passage of laws affecting them, and the hope that the Cuban Government might arrive at a better understanding of the U.S. position in defense of democracy against the world communist conspiracy.
- September 3 In first interview since June 12, Ambassador Bonsal expresses to Prime Minister Castro our general sympathy with the objectives of the revolution, concern at anti-American statements made by Cuban officials and at insinuations by Cuban officials that our relations have not been straightforward and correct, at the treatment received by American interests in Cuba, and at the failure of the Cuban Government to see the implications of international communism.
- September 10 Assistant Secretary Rubottom tells Cuban Representative on Inter-American Economic and Social Council, Enrique Perez Cisneros, that the U. S. is still disposed to carry out a policy of friendship and fairness toward Cuba despite considerable provocation during the past nine months.
- September 21 Ambassador Dihigo informs Assistant Secretary Rubottom that President Osvaldo Dorticos and Minister of State Roa are completely receptive to the idea that Cuba and the U. S. begin immediately to discuss their problems and endeavor to arrive at mutually acceptable solutions. He requests that the U. S. compile a list of the general and specific problems now troubling the U. S. in its relations with Cuba, and present the list to the Cuban Government. Rubottom indicates his pleasure at this request and says that we will immediately give consideration as how best to meet it.
- September 30 On at least 8 occasions during the month, Cuban Government officials seize water system, forest and other lands, and place cattle on land owned by U. S. citizens.
- October 6 Ambassador Bonsal tells Minister of State Roa that the U. S. is generally in sympathy with the stated democratic social objectives of the Cuban revolution, but also is perplexed and in doubt about Cuban attitudes toward the U. S. and the free world.
- October 12 U. S. presents note to Cuban Government reaffirming our understanding and sympathy for the goals which the Cuban Government has declared to be the purpose of its agrarian reform.
- October 19 Major Huber Matos, a Rebel Army leader during the revolution, resigns as military chief of Camaguey province, charging Communist penetration of the government. Matos is arrested and on December 15 is sentenced to 20 years in prison for conspiracy, sedition and treason.

October 21

- October 21 Major Diaz Lanz makes an illegal flight from the U. S. over Habana. Prime Minister Castro charges that the plane bombed and strafed Habana resulting in deaths and injuries.
- October 26 Prime Minister Castro accuses the U. S. of tolerating air incursions against Cuba and of threatening Cuba with economic strangulation.
- October 26 Cuban Government passes law imposing confiscatory taxes upon the Nicaro nickel facility, owned by the U. S. Government, in violation of a binding international agreement. Subsequently the Cuban Government intermittently embargoes the export of the product and continually harasses the operation by delaying or failing to approve the exportation of the product and the importation of critically needed supplies and replacement parts.
- October 27 Referring to October 21 incident, U. S. states that the plane distributed leaflets over Habana, that it was impossible for the plane to bomb or strafe, that the Cuban police reported no bombing or strafing, and that deaths and injuries from the incident must have resulted from Cuban anti-aircraft fire or bombs thrown by terrorists. Rejects implication that the U. S. approved the flight or was in any way responsible.
- October 27 Ambassador Bonsal tells Cuban President Osvaldo Dorticos and Minister of State Roa that the "U. S. awaits a resolution by the Cuban Government of the issues involved on a basis of friendship and observance of international law which have traditionally characterized negotiations between Cuba and the U. S.". Bonsal also expresses the hope that normal negotiations will not be distorted to obscure the deep sympathy with which the entire U. S. views the efforts of the Cuban people to achieve their social, economic and political aspirations.
- October 31 On at least 12 occasions during the month, Cuban Government officials seize lands, cattle and equipment, order cattle moved, deny access to pastures, order cutting of timber, open fences and plow up land, and place cattle on land owned by U. S. citizens.
- November 6 Cuban Ministry of State distributes brochure entitled "Cuba Denounces Before the World". Brochure repeats allegations about October 21 plane incident and charges that the U. S. is providing political asylum to Cuban fugitives from justice.
- November 9 U. S. protests November 6 brochure as disregarding facts on plane incident. Also states that Cuban Government has never requested extradition of alleged fugitives from justice under extradition treaty with U. S.

- November 24 Daniel M. Braddock, Minister-Counselor of American Embassy, Habana, states to Minister of Economy Boti that although various individual matters have been discussed between Cuba and the U. S., little or no progress has been made on them. Braddock says that some American companies in Cuba fear that the ultimate intention of the Cuban Government is to take them over.
- November 30 On at least 9 occasions during the month, Cuban Government officials seize land, cattle and equipment and place cattle on land owned by U. S. citizens.
- December 4 Ambassador Bonsal reviews for Minister of Economy Boti the principal events in U. S.-Cuban relations since October 12, noting the deterioration that has occurred in the meantime. He refers to the Cuban offer of November 13 to continue negotiations on pending questions, and asks if Boti is disposed to resume those discussions. Boti indicates assent.
- December 31 Cuba and Communist China sign trade agreement under which Cuba is to sell Peiping 50,000 tons of sugar.
- December 31 On at least 7 occasions during the month, Cuban Government officials seize land, equipment, property, remove timber, borrow equipment. (most of which is not returned) and use repair shops owned by U. S. citizens.

1960

- January 11 U. S. protests seizure of U. S. property in recent weeks by Cuban officials in violation of Agrarian Reform Law. States that without court order or any written authorization, lands and buildings have been seized and occupied; equipment has been confiscated and removed; cattle have been taken; wood has been cut and sold; productive pastures have been plowed under without the consent of their owners; and fences and boundaries have been arbitrarily moved.
- January 21 Prime Minister Castro says that notes from the U. S. State Department and statements by U. S. officials encourage counterrevolutionary activities against Cuba and indicate that a policy of hostility against Cuba is more evident every day. He implies that the U. S. exploited Cuba for 50 years.
- January 26 President Eisenhower reaffirms the adherence of the U. S. to the policy of non-intervention in the domestic affairs of other countries, including Cuba; explicitly recognizes the right of the Cuban Government and people to undertake social, economic and political reforms which, with due regard for their obligations under international law, they may think desirable; and expresses the sympathy of the American people for the aspirations of the Cuban people.
- January 27 Answering President Eisenhower's statement of January 26, President Dorticos states that the Cuban Government is fully disposed to discuss differences between Cuba and the U. S. through diplomatic negotiations, and will hear and consider complaints and claims regarding individual cases raised by U. S. citizens, in accordance with Cuban and international law.

January 31

- January 31 On at least 11 occasions during the month, Cuban Government officials seize a marine dredge, land, stores, cattle and horses, and brand cattle owned by U. S. citizens.
- February 4 Soviet First Deputy Premier Anastas I. Mikoyan arrives to open a Soviet exhibition.
- February 4 Charge d'Affaires Braddock states to Minister of State Roa that the U. S. is disposed to take President Dorticos' statement at face value and is prepared to return to diplomatic norms. Braddock mentions the desirability of leading officials of both Cuba and the U. S. working within the traditional spirit of U. S.-Cuban friendship, maintaining an atmosphere free of public recriminations, and observing standards of international and domestic laws applicable to each other's nationals.
- February 10 U. S. states that it considers the January 27 statement of President Dorticos consistent with a desire for a return to normal diplomatic channels and welcomes the readiness of the Cuban Government to negotiate pending problems.
- February 13 Prime Minister Castro and Deputy Premier Mikoyan sign joint Soviet-Cuban communique describing their conversations as "carried out in an atmosphere of frank cordiality".
- February 13 Cuba and Soviet Union sign trade and economic aid agreements. Soviet Union to buy 1 million tons of Cuban sugar in each of ensuing 5 years. Soviet Union extends \$100 million credit for purchase of equipment.
- February 15 Replying to U. S. protest of January 11, Cuban Government states that no property has been confiscated under the agrarian reform law; that where agrarian reform officials have occupied property, steps are being taken for their fair appraisal; and that if the U. S. considers that Cuban laws have been violated, U. S. nationals have the right to appeal through appropriate channels.
- February 15 Commerce Minister Cepero Bonilla states that the U. S. pays a premium price for sugar in order to bolster "inefficient and expensive" domestic sugar producers who cannot compete with "efficient and cheap producers such as Cuba".
- February 20 Cuba signs trade and payments agreement with East Germany.
- February 22 Cuban Government announces that it has decided to name a commission to begin negotiations in Washington, under the condition that the legislative and executive branches of the U. S. Government will adopt no measure considered prejudicial to the Cuban economy and people while the negotiations are in progress.

February 24

- February 24 Armed Forces Minister Raul Castro blames the U. S. for exploitation of Cuba since the beginning of the century.
- February 29 U. S. tells Cuban Government that it wishes to seek a solution of outstanding problems through negotiations, but cannot accept the condition proposed by the Cuban Government that no measure of a unilateral character be adopted by the legislative or executive branch of the U. S. Government, and wishes to explore the subjects to be discussed before initiating negotiations.
- March 2 National Bank President Ernesto Guevara states that the 3 million tons of sugar which Cuba sells annually to the U. S. "at supposedly preferential prices" have meant and mean slavery for the people of Cuba.
- March 4 French Munitions ship La Coubre explodes in Habana harbor. On March 5 Prime Minister Castro identifies the U. S. as the responsible agent of the explosion.
- March 7 The U. S. categorically and emphatically denies the charge by Prime Minister Castro implying involvement of the U. S. Government in the La Coubre disaster.
- March 9 Secretary of State Herter states at press conference that "we have been hopeful throughout that the atmosphere of our relationship with Cuba would allow us to settle through diplomatic means such differences as we may have with Cuba".
- March 15 U. S. expresses shock and dismay at Prime Minister Castro's attributing responsibility for La Coubre disaster to U. S.; rejects Castro's suggestion that the U. S. wants to keep Cuba defenseless in order to oppress Cuba; states that it is prepared to discuss various other matters, on which Castro has been critical of the U. S. through normal channels of communication; and continues to hope that the U. S. and Cuba can settle their differences through diplomatic means.
- March 20 National Bank President Guevara states "Our war...is against the great power of the north".
- March 20 Plane from the U. S. leaves Fort Lauderdale, and is damaged by Cuban gunfire as it lands on a highway in Cuba the next day. U. S. Grand Jury later indicts William J. Chergalis, a U. S. citizen, and Hector Garcia Soto, both of whom arranged for the flight, for acting as agents of the Cuban Government without filing the registration statement required by law.
- March 31 Cuba signs trade and payments agreement with Poland.

April 11

- April 11 U. S. asks Cuban Government if the March 2 views of National Bank President Guevara on sugar represent the official Cuban position. No reply ever received from Cuban Government.
- April 19 Prime Minister Castro states that the U. S. Government takes advantage of every opportunity to create confusion with respect to U. S.-Cuban relations. He states that the U. S. Government seems to have adopted the policy used in the past to encourage fascism.
- April 19 The first shipment of Soviet crude oil arrives in Cuba on the Soviet tanker Vishinsky.
- May 6 Cuban Coast Guard patrol vessel fires without warning upon U. S. submarine Sea Poacher on the high seas 11 miles from the Cuban coast.
- May 8 Cuba and the Soviet Union establish diplomatic relations.
- May 13 Prime Minister Castro, referring to Sea Poacher incident of May 6, states that the Cuban Coast Guard cutter Oriente sighted a U. S. submarine 5 miles off the Cuban Coast. In the same speech Castro states that 3 miles is the limit of Cuban territorial waters.
- May 14 U. S. expresses astonishment and protest to Cuban Government over Sea Poacher incident and requests explanation. On June 11 Prime Minister Castro says that no explanation will be given.
- May 16 Cuba and Czechoslovakia establish diplomatic relations.
- May 17 National Bank of Cuba informs U. S. oil companies in Cuba that each of them will be required to purchase 300,000 tons of Russian petroleum during the balance of 1960.
- May 17 Minister-Counselor Braddock reminds Cuban Under Secretary of State Fernandez Font that Minister of State Roa told Ambassador Bonsal that Roa would be soon getting in touch with Bonsal to resume discussions on the possibility of negotiations on pending problems.
- June 4 U. S. reviews the record of the Cuban Government's campaign of slander against the U. S., and the efforts of the U. S. to maintain its traditionally friendly relations with the people of Cuba. The record includes Cuban confiscation and expropriation of U. S. property, failure of the Cuban Government to compensate U. S. property owners, payments due to American exporters, Cuban attacks on U. S. sugar premium, air incursions, and the La Coubre and Sea Poacher incidents.

- June 7 U. S. objects to "fallacious" and "offensive" Cuban Government pamphlet containing thinly veiled charges implying U. S. Government involvement in La Coubre disaster.
- June 8 Antonio Muñoz Jimenez, Director of the Agrarian Reform Institute, says in Moscow that of all the Latin American countries, Cuba is "the Soviet Union's greatest and most loyal friend".
- June 9 Prime Minister Castro, referring to the U. S., says that powerful interests which wanted to destroy the revolution provoked the La Coubre incident. He calls this type of disaster "criminally conceived and executed".
- June 10 Cuban Government seizes 4 U. S.-owned hotels in Habana.
- June 10 Cuba signs five-year trade and payment agreements with Czechoslovakia.
- June 10 Prime Minister Castro states that U. S. officials participated in a plot to mount an invasion attempt in Cuba against Nicaragua under the leadership of a Nicaraguan exile, for the purpose of embarrassing the Cuban Government. U. S. states allegations are false.
- June 10 Cuban Minister of State Roa says in Montevideo that Cuba decided "to break the structure of its commercial relations with the U. S.".
- June 15 Cuba and Poland establish diplomatic relations.
- June 18 Joint Cuban-Soviet communique in Moscow notes the fruitful development of trade, economic and cultural ties between the Soviet Union and Cuba.
- June 18 Agrarian Reform Director Muñoz Jimenez states "The Communist Party of Cuba is...the Party whose members are receiving the benefits of the revolution".
- June 27 U. S. explains the unusual precautions it has taken against illegal air incursions from U. S. territory affecting Cuba. States that the Cuban Government has shown no recognition of these efforts, has continued to picture the U. S. as permitting and encouraging these incursions, and has never provided the U. S. with data which would aid in investigating the incursions.
- June 27 U. S. submits memorandum to the Inter-American Peace Committee on provocative actions of the Cuban Government. Memorandum mentions La Coubre incident, Sea Poacher incident, air incursions, and false Cuban allegations of U. S. complicity in plot to invade Nicaragua.
- June 29 Cuban Government seizes Texaco and Esso refineries, on grounds that they had violated Cuban law in refusing to refine Soviet crude oil. As of this date, the oil companies had voluntarily financed over 350 million worth of crude oil imports for which the Cuban Government had refused to release dollars.

- July 3 Agrarian Reform Director Muñoz Jimenez states in East Berlin that Cuba desires relations not only with the Soviet Union but with all Socialist countries.
- July 3 U. S. Congress gives President authority to reduce import quota on Cuban sugar.
- July 3 Jose Miró Cardona, Ambassador-designate to the U. S., resigns, stating that "the ideological differences between the plans of the government...and my conscience were impossible to resolve". He takes asylum in the Argentine Embassy.
- July 5 U. S. protests seizure of U. S.-owned oil refineries as arbitrary, inequitable and contrary to Cuban law, and expresses the hope that the Cuban Government will rescind these actions.
- July 6 Cuban Government passes "Nationalization Law", authorizing nationalization of U. S.-owned property through expropriation. Authorizes payment to be made from fund to be derived from receipts from annual purchases of Cuban sugar over 3 million tons, at price of at least 5.75 cents a pound. Payment to be in 30-year bonds at 2% interest.
- July 6 President Eisenhower "with the most genuine regret", orders a cut of 700,000 tons in Cuba's 1960 sugar quota, on grounds that Cuban commitments to pay for Soviet goods with Cuban sugar have raised serious doubts as to whether the U. S. can depend on Cuba as a source of sugar.
- July 7 Prime Minister Castro says that the U. S. acted in a "frenzy of impotence and hatred...in a fit of rage" in cutting the sugar quota, but defies the U. S. and says that his revolution will triumph.
- July 9 Soviet Premier Khrushchev states that the USSR is "...raising its voice and extending a helpful hand to the people of Cuba...Speaking figuratively, in case of necessity, Soviet artillerymen can support the Cuban people with rocket fire..."
- July 9 President Eisenhower says that Khrushchev's statement underscores the close ties that have developed between the Soviet and Cuban Governments.
- July 10 Prime Minister Castro devotes an entire speech to expressing satisfaction at the support offered Cuba by the Soviet Union and to attacking what he describes as the aggressive policies of the U. S.
- July 10 National Bank President Guevara states that Cuba is defended by the Soviet Union, "the greatest military power in history".

- July 10 President Dorticos hails "the message of solidarity spoken by the Prime Minister of the Soviet Union and coming to us in our most difficult hour".
- July 16 U. S. protests Nationalization Law of July 6 as discriminatory, arbitrary and confiscatory.
- July 21 Cuban press reports Armed Forces Minister Raul Castro stating in Moscow that Cuba "is grateful for political and moral support from the Soviet Union".
- July 23 Cuba signs a five-year trade and payment agreements with Communist China, calling for Chinese Communist purchase of 500,000 tons of Cuban sugar in each of the next five years.
- July 30 National Bank President Guevara states that the USSR, Communist China, and other socialist countries are Cuba's friends.
- August 1 U. S. submits document to the Inter-American Peace Committee entitled "Responsibility of Cuban Government for Increased International Tensions in the Hemisphere". Document deals principally with the relations between Cuba and the Sino-Soviet bloc, and the emergence of a dictatorial pattern of political control in Cuba. Document states that the Cuban Government has taken discriminatory actions against the property of U. S. citizens in Cuba valued at over \$850 million, and that no effort has been made by the Cuban Government to assure them anything approaching adequate compensation.
- August 6 Under authority of the Nationalization Law, Cuba nationalizes through forced expropriation the properties of 26 companies wholly or partially owned by U. S. citizens. The U. S. protests this action on August 8.
- August 6 Armed Forces Minister Raul Castro says Cuba is grateful for Soviet support, and that U. S. aid always has strings attached, while aid from the Soviet Union is disinterested.
- August 7 Prime Minister Castro justifies the confiscation of the investments of U. S. citizens in Cuba by accusing the U. S. of "economic aggression" in reducing Cuba's sugar quota.
- August 10 U. S. issues 23-page document containing evidence of the aggressive intent of the Cuban Government in its discriminatory trade and financial policies, and its confiscation of the property of U. S. citizens. Estimates the value of confiscated U. S. property at about \$1 billion. States that the backlog of payments due to U. S. exporters because of the failure of Cuban authorities to make the necessary foreign exchange available is over \$100 million. States that about one-half of U. S. investments had been seized before any change was made in the Cuban sugar quota.

Document states that property seized under Nationalization Law of July 6 covers only the most recent cases of the arbitrary taking of such property without prompt, adequate and effective compensation. In prior cases starting in June 1959, the Cuban Government has shown little or no consideration for the rights guaranteed property owners under the laws of Cuba. It has seized and occupied lands and buildings of U. S. citizens, confiscated and removed equipment, confiscated and removed cattle from the pastures of owners, seized timberland resources, plowed under productive pastures without the consent of owners, and arbitrarily moved fences and boundaries. In many cases no inventory was taken at the time of seizure nor receipt provided, nor indication given that any payment would be made. The value of American owned property affected by such acts is estimated at \$350 million.

- August 13 Commerce Minister Cepero Bonilla declares that for the coming year "it would be much more advantageous to Cuba if the U. S. did not buy a single grain of sugar".
- August 16 Cuban press reports on message from Prime Minister Castro to Premier Khrushchev, expressing thanks "for the support of the Soviet people, which is irrefutable proof that the peoples fighting for their independence are not alone in their struggle".
- August 24 Prime Minister Castro charges the U. S. with supporting counter-revolutionaries and states that Cuba will be friends with the Soviets and the Chinese People's Republic.
- August 29 The Foreign Ministers of the American Republics, meeting at San Jose, Costa Rica, approve Declaration of San Jose, stating that the acceptance by an American state of extracontinental intervention endangers American solidarity and security. They also create an ad hoc good offices committee to help settle controversies between governments in the Americas.
- August 29 Prime Minister Castro repeats charges of U. S. aggression against Cuba and says he will not renounce Soviet support.
- September 2 In reply to the Declaration of San Jose, Prime Minister Castro presents "Declaration of Habana", which bitterly attacks the U. S. and the OAS, denounces U. S. intervention in Latin America, accepts offer of assistance from the Soviet Union, and denies that the Soviet Union or Communist China have interventionist intentions in the Western Hemisphere. States Cuba will establish relations with the Chinese People's Republic.
- September 12 U. S. offers to present its charges for examination by the good offices committee created August 29, and express the hope that the Cuban Government will cooperate.

September 15

- September 15 Cuba and Hungary sign trade and payments agreements.
- September 17 Under authority of the Nationalization Law, Cuba nationalizes 3 U. S.-owned banks through forced expropriation. U. S. protests on September 29.
- September 18 National Bank President Cusvara accuses the U. S. of aggression and genocide. Says that Cuba has received arms from Czechoslovakia and is expecting many more from any power that will sell them.
- September 23 Cuba and North Korea establish diplomatic relations.
- September 26 Prime Minister Castro makes series of untrue and distorted allegations against the U. S. at the UN General Assembly.
- September 30 Communist Chinese Prime Minister Chou En-lai states that "in the event of necessity the Chinese Government and people will give all possible support and aid to the Cuban people...".
- October 7 Cuba and Bulgaria sign trade and payments agreements.
- October 12 U. S. submits document to the UN Secretary General entitled "Facts Concerning Relations Between Cuba and the U. S.", replying to Prime Minister Castro's allegations of September 26.
- October 13 Unidentified men raid the Cuban Consulate General in Miami. Cuban Government states that the attack was permitted with the "suspicious indifference" and the "manifest collusion of the American authorities" and that the identities of those responsible are known to the authorities.
- October 19 U. S. prohibits exports to Cuba except for non-subsidized foodstuffs, medicines and medical supplies, to defend the legitimate economic interests of the people of the U. S. against the discriminatory, aggressive and injurious economic policies of the Castro regime.
- October 24 Under authority of the Nationalization Law, Cuba nationalizes through forced expropriation 166 properties wholly or partially owned by U. S. citizens. U. S. protests on November 19.
- October 26 Cuba and Rumania establish diplomatic relations and sign trade and technical assistance agreements.
- October 27 U. S. rejects "emphatically and categorically" the Cuban protest of October 13. States that the U. S. does not condone the violation of its laws by anyone, that it makes every effort to prevent such violations, that an investigation into the incident is continuing and that the U. S. has told the Miami police of the need for special police protection for the Consulate General.

- October 28 U. S. reiterates September 12 offer to cooperate with good offices committee and expresses hope that committee will carry out its mission promptly.
- November 11 Cuban Government rejects the U. S. statements of October 27 as "mendacious and detrimental" and refers to an "alliance" between the executioners of the Cuban people and the U. S. Government.
- November 18 U. S. states that at least 12 Soviet ships have delivered arms and ammunition to Cuba since July 1960 and that Soviet bloc arms provided to Cuba amount to at least 28,000 tons.
- December 2 Cuba and North Vietnam establish diplomatic relations.
- December 9 Cuba and Outer Mongolia establish diplomatic relations.
- December 11 National Bank President Guevara expresses wholehearted support for the December 6 statement of the Congress of 81 Communist Parties which met in Moscow, and states that Cuba "should follow the example of peaceful development set by the Soviet Union".
- December 15 Cuba and Albania establish diplomatic relations.
- December 16 President Eisenhower fixes the Cuban sugar quota at zero for the first quarter of 1961.
- December 17 Cuba and Hungary establish diplomatic relations.
- December 19 Cuba and the Soviet Union sign joint communique through which Cuba openly aligns itself with the domestic and foreign policies of the Soviet Union and indicates its solidarity with the Sino-Soviet bloc.

1961

- January 2 Cuba holds military parade. Many Soviet and Bloc arms displayed, including tanks, assault guns and field guns. Prime Minister Castro says this represents only a "small part" of the arms which Cuba has received from the Bloc.
- January 2 Prime Minister Castro demands that the U. S. Embassy in Habana be reduced to 11 officials within 48 hours.
- January 3 U. S. terminates diplomatic and consular relations with Cuba in view of Castro's demand of January 2, which placed crippling limitations on the ability of the U. S. to carry out normal diplomatic and consular functions. Cuba turns over its diplomatic and consular affairs to the Embassy of Czechoslovakia in Washington.

February 23

- February 23 Armed Forces Minister Raul Castro declares that the Chinese People's Republic has sent Cuba hundreds of machine guns.
- March 31 President Kennedy fixes the Cuban sugar quota at zero for 1961.
- April 3 U. S. issues "Cuba" pamphlet, expressing determination to support free democratic governments in Cuba to help the Cuban people achieve freedom, democracy, and social justice, and calling on the Castro regime to sever its links with the international Communist movement.
- April 3 Department states in "Cuba" pamphlet that since mid-1960 more than 30,000 tons of arms, with an estimated value of \$50 million, have arrived in Cuba from "beyond the Iron Curtain"; that the Cuban armed forces are dependent on the Soviet bloc for the maintenance of their armed power; that Soviet and Czech military advisers and technicians have accompanied the flow of arms; that Cubans have gone to Czechoslovakia and the Soviet Union for training as jet pilots, ground maintenance crews, and artillerymen; and that Cuba has, except for the U. S., the largest ground forces in the hemisphere, at least ten times as large as those maintained by previous Cuban Governments, including that of Batista.
- April 16 Prime Minister Castro describes his regime as socialist.
- April 17-19 Cuban patriots fail in attempt to redeem the independence of their homeland.
- April 20 President Kennedy states that any unilateral American intervention would have been contrary to our traditions and to our international obligations, but that we do not intend to abandon Cuba.
- April 21 Cuba votes with the Soviet bloc on almost every major international issue during the 15th General Assembly of the United Nations, which ran from September 20 to December 20, 1960 and March 7 to April 21, 1961.
- April 30 Minister of Industries Ernesto Guevara declares that the Castro movement was "the first socialist revolution in Latin America".
- May 1 Prime Minister Castro speaks of "our Socialist Revolution" and says that a new "socialist constitution" will be prepared for Cuba.
- July 26 Prime Minister Castro announces formation of Integrated Revolutionary Organizations (ORI) as the precursor of the United Party of the Socialist Revolution, to be the only party in Cuba.
- September 20 Soviet-Cuban communique proclaims "identity of positions of the Soviet Union and Cuba on all the international questions that were discussed".

- October 2 Chinese-Cuban communique proclaims complete agreement between the Cuban and Chinese Communist regimes on "the current international situation and the question of further developing friendship and cooperation".
- December 2 Prime Minister Castro states: "I believe absolutely in Marxism... I am a Marxist-Leninist and will be a Marxist-Leninist until the last day of my life". He admits that he hid his true political ideology during his revolutionary struggle because he felt that "...if we, when we began to have strength, had been known as people of very radical ideas, unquestionably all the social classes that are making war on us would have been doing so from that time on...".
- December 6 U. S. submits document to the Inter-American Peace Committee entitled "The Castro Regime in Cuba", containing information on Cuba's ties with the Sino-Soviet bloc and her threat to independent governments in the Western Hemisphere.
- December 20 Cuba votes with Soviet bloc on 33 out of 37 major issues in 16th Session of UN General Assembly.

1962

- January 14 The Inter-American Peace Committee reports that Cuba's connections with the Sino-Soviet bloc are incompatible with inter-American treaties, principles and standards.
- January 31 The Foreign Ministers of the American Republics, meeting at Punta del Este, declare that as a consequence of its public alignment with the international communist movement, the present Marxist-Leninist government of Cuba is excluded from participation in the inter-American system.
- March 27 U. S. states that Sino-Soviet bloc has furnished about \$100 million worth of military equipment and technical services to Cuba and that several hundred Cuban military personnel have received training, including pilot training, in the Bloc. Arms include 5-75 MIG jet fighters; 150-250 tanks; 50-100 assault guns; 500-1000 field artillery; 500-1000 anti-aircraft artillery; 500 mortars; 200,000 small arms; and some patrol vessels and torpedo boats. No evidence of missiles, missile bases, or bombers.

June 15, 1962

Continuation of Chronology of Important
Events in United States-Cuban Relations

1962

- April 8 Cuban patriots who were taken prisoner in April 1961 attempt to redeem the independence of their homeland are sentenced by Cuban revolutionary tribunal to 30 years in prison, subject to release upon payment of indemnities totaling more than \$62 million.
- July 31 Late in the month large quantities of new Soviet arms and technical military personnel begin arriving in Cuba, and continue at least into September. These arms include surface-to-air missiles with a range of 25 miles, coastal defense missile installations effective to a range of 30-35 miles, a limited number of modern jet interceptors (MIG-21) possibly equipped with air-to-air missiles, and several "Komar" class guided missile patrol boats which carry two short range missiles (11-17 miles). The new shipments also include types of weapons previously delivered to Cuba such as tanks, self-propelled guns and other ground force equipment. About 4200 Soviet military specialists and technicians have arrived in connection with the shipments.
- Sept. 1 Soviet-Cuban communique states that at Cuban Government request, the Soviet Union has agreed to furnish arms to Cuba and to send technical specialists to train Cuban military personnel.
- Sept. 4 President Kennedy, referring to the Soviet arms and military personnel which began arriving in Cuba in July, states that there is no evidence of any organized combat force in Cuba from any Soviet bloc country; of military bases provided to Russia; of a violation of the 1934 treaty relating to Guantanamo; of the presence of offensive ground-to-ground missiles; or of other significant offensive capability either in Cuban hands or under Soviet direction and guidance. The President further states that the Castro regime will not be allowed to export its aggressive purposes by force or the threat of force and that it will be prevented by

whatever

whatever means may be necessary from taking action against any part of the Western Hemisphere.

- Sept. 11 In a statement by TASS, the Soviet Government asserts that it is providing military assistance of a defensive character to Cuba because of the allegedly-increasing danger of attack by U.S. armed forces, and states that such an attack "would be the beginning of the unleashing of war."
- Sept. 13 President Kennedy states that if at any time the Communist build-up in Cuba were to endanger or interfere with our security in any way, including our base at Guantanamo, our passage to the Panama Canal, our missile and space activities at Cape Canaveral, or the lives of American citizens in this country, or if Cuba should ever attempt to export its aggressive purposes by force or the threat of force against any nation in this hemisphere, or become an offensive military base of significant capacity for the Soviet Union, then this country will do whatever must be done to protect its own security and that of its allies.
- Sept. 25 Castro announces that an agreement has been reached for Soviet-Cuban joint construction of a fishing port in Cuba.

Continuation of Chronology of Important
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- Sept. 26 Congress approves resolution backing President on necessary Cuban action.
- Oct. 3 President Kennedy signed resolution.
- Oct. 16 U.S. notes first definite evidence of presence of Soviet offensive missiles in Cuba.
- Oct. 22 President Kennedy announces imposition of quarantine on importation of offensive weapons into Cuba.
- Oct. 24 Quarantine on importation of offensive weapons into Cuba takes effect.